WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A diagnostic support apparatus comprising:

diagnostic support content storage means for storing a plurality of diagnostic support contents for providing diagnostic support;

selection means for selecting a desired diagnostic support content from the plurality of diagnostic support contents stored in the diagnostic support content storage means;

information acquisition means for acquiring diagnostic information concerning at least one of a patient, an examination, and an image from a medical system;

diagnostic support information creating means for creating diagnostic support information on the basis of the diagnostic support content selected by the selection means and the diagnostic information acquired from the medical system; and

diagnostic support information display means for displaying the diagnostic support information created by the diagnostic support information creating means.

2. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the diagnostic support apparatus is constituted by a plurality of computers connected to each other through a line, and further comprises

transmission means for transmitting the stored

diagnostic support content, and

reception means for receiving the diagnostic support content transmitted from the transmission means, and

the diagnostic support information creating means creates diagnostic support information on the basis of diagnostic information acquired from the medical system and the diagnostic support content received by the reception means.

3. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising

diagnostic support content creating means for creating diagnostic support content,

transmission means for transmitting a diagnostic support content created by using the diagnostic support content creating means, and

reception means for receiving the diagnostic support content transmitted from the transmission means.

4. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the apparatus further comprises

diagnostic support content creating means storage means for storing the diagnostic support content creating means,

transmission means for transmitting diagnostic support content creating means stored in the diagnostic

support content creating means storage means, and

reception means for receiving the diagnostic support content creating means transmitted from the transmission means, and

creates diagnostic support content by using the received diagnostic support content creating means.

5. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the diagnostic support content creating means further comprises storage means for storing first diagnostic support content, and

creates second diagnostic support content by using the first diagnostic support content and the diagnostic information.

6. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the diagnostic support content storage means and the transmission means constitute a diagnostic support server, and

the information acquisition means, the reception means, the diagnostic support information creating means, and the diagnostic support information display means constitute a diagnostic support execution terminal.

7. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a diagnostic support content creating terminal including diagnostic support

content creating means for creating the diagnostic support content, and transmission means for transmitting, to the diagnostic support content server, diagnostic support content created by using the diagnostic support content creating means.

8. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 7, wherein

the apparatus comprises a diagnostic support content creating means server including diagnostic support content creating means storage means for storing the diagnostic support content creating means, and transmission means for transmitting the diagnostic support content creating means to the diagnostic support content providing terminal, and

the diagnostic support content creating terminal comprises diagnostic support content reception means for receiving the transmitted diagnostic support content creating means, and

creates diagnostic support content by using the received diagnostic support content creating means.

9. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 6, wherein

the apparatus comprises detection means for detecting that diagnostic support content stored in the diagnostic support content storage means is at least updated or added, and

transmits the diagnostic support content on the

basis of a detection result obtained by the detection means.

10. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 7, wherein

the diagnostic support content creating terminal comprises information acquisition means for acquiring diagnostic information concerning at least one of a patient, an examination, and an image from a medical system, and

storage means for storing first diagnostic support content, and

creates second diagnostic support content by using the first diagnostic support content and the diagnostic information.

11. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the diagnostic support information creating means comprises characteristic value calculation means for calculating a characteristic value from a medical image contained in the diagnostic support information, and

creates diagnostic support information based on the characteristic value calculated by the characteristic value calculation means.

12. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

the diagnostic support information creating means further comprises identification/classification means,

and

creates diagnostic support information based on an identification/classification result using the characteristic value calculated by the characteristic value calculation means.

13. A diagnostic support method of providing diagnostic support comprising:

a step of acquiring diagnostic support content;

a step of inputting diagnostic information concerning at least one of a patient as a diagnostic support target, an examination, and an image;

a step of creating diagnostic support information using the diagnostic support content and the diagnostic information; and

a step of displaying the diagnostic support information.

14. A diagnostic support method according to claim 13, further comprising

a step of creating the diagnostic support content, and

a step of transmitting the diagnostic support content to another computer.

15. An information processing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing processing data constituted by at least one image data, character string data, and numerical value data;

graph creating means for creating graph information from the numerical value data;

image list information creating means for creating image list information from the image data;

table list information creating means for creating table list information from the character string data and the numerical value data;

display means for displaying the graph information, the image list information, and the table list information;

selection means for selecting information displayed on the display means; and

information management means for managing the graph information, the image list information, and the table list information displayed on the display means.

16. An information processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

the information management means changes, when one or a plurality of graph elements on the graph information are selected by the selection means, display of an image corresponding to the selected graph element in the image list information, and display of a table item corresponding to the selected graph element in the table list information,

changes, when one or a plurality of images on the image list information are selected by the selection means, display of a graph element corresponding the

selected image in the graph information, and display of a table item corresponding to the selected image in the table list information, and

changes, when one or a plurality of table items on the table list information are selected by the selection means, display of a graph element corresponding to the selected item in the graph information, and display of an image corresponding to the selected item in the image list information.

17. A diagnostic support apparatus for supporting a diagnosis by an examiner, comprising

image storage means for storing image data input from an endoscopic device, characteristic value calculation means for calculating at least one characteristic value to quantify a finding associated with a diagnosis from image data stored in the image storage means, and diagnostic support information display means for displaying diagnostic support information on the basis of a calculation result obtained by the characteristic value calculation means,

the characteristic value calculation means including

blood vessel extraction means for extracting a transmission blood vessel image in the image data stored in the image storage means; and

blood vessel characteristic value calculation means for representing a running state of a see-through

blood vessel image as a characteristic value on the basis of an output from the blood vessel extraction means.

18. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

the blood vessel extraction means comprises

gradient information detection means for detecting density gradient information of image data recorded on the image recording means,

shape edge detection means for detecting a shape edge based on a shape of a living body on the basis of an output from the gradient information detection means,

blood vessel candidate extraction means for extracting a blood vessel image as a see-through blood vessel image candidate, with respect to at least one color signal, from image data constituted by a plurality of color signals, and

separation means for separating a desired see-through blood vessel image from the shape edge on the basis of outputs from the shape edge detection means and the blood vessel candidate extraction means.

19. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

the blood vessel candidate extraction means comprises

edge information detection means for detecting

edge information, with respect to at least one color signal, from image data constituted by a plurality of color signals and stored in the image storage means, and

color tone information calculation means for calculating a value associated with a color tone, with respect to at least one color signal, from image data constituted by a plurality of color signals and stored in the image storage means, and

extracts a blood vessel candidate on the basis of outputs from the edge information detection means and the color tone information calculation means.

20. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the gradient information detection means detects density gradient information of each of image data constituted by a plurality of color signals and stored in the image storage means, and the shape edge detection means detects the shape edge on the basis of threshold processing for a linear sum between density gradient information of a plurality of color signals output from the gradient information detection means.

21. A diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the separation means extracts only image information of a shape edge portion on the basis of shape edge image information output from the shape edge detection means and blood vessel candidate image

information output from the blood vessel candidate extraction means, detects blood vessel candidate image information based on the shape edge by performing expansion processing of image information of the shape edge portion on the basis of the blood vessel candidate image information, and removes the shape edge portion having undergone the expansion processing from the blood vessel candidate image information.

22. An diagnostic support apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the color tone information calculation means sets a value calculated by R/(R + G + B) as a value associated with a color tone when the plurality of color signals comprise R, G, and B.